

Old Acres Homes Citizens Council, Inc.
Environmental Justice In Acres Homes, Houston, Texas
6719 W. Montgomery, Suite 207
Houston, Texas 77091
(713)691-4213 or 688-0269

July 25, 2003

Bill Rhotenberry
Superfund Division
US EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: "Booker Landfill" in Acres Homes

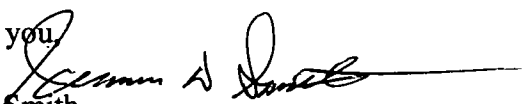
Dear Mr. Rhotenberry:

This letter is in response to Ms. Nelda J. Perez's letter dated July 14, 2003. The Old Acres Homes Citizens Council would like the Superfund Division of EPA Region 6 to investigate the "Booker Landfill." This un-permitted landfill has been a nuisance and environmental threat to the residents living on West Donovan Street for over 10 years. We used funds from the Region 6 EPA Environmental Justice small grant to conduct a preliminary analysis of the soil and water in the backyards of residents who live directly behind the landfill. Quantum Environmental is our consultant and a copy of the report is enclosed. Water constantly drains from the landfill from waste pits into the community, even when it is not raining. Some of the neighbors have tried to put up barriers to keep the water out, because the city of Houston and the State have not done anything to address this problem. Because an excess number of residents have died from cancer and other "strange" diseases, the community perceives this site as a significant threat to their health. Quantum Environmental also found that the homes were built on top of another landfill. Because these landfills were not permitted, no one knows what was dumped there. Quantum found high levels of toxic substances in just the top soil and water runoff. We believe that the site poses a serious problem and that higher concentrations of toxics are probably on the site and in our community.

We want the EPA Superfund program to find out the extent of contamination on the site and in our community. We want an in-depth analysis of the soil, water, and air, to determine the risks to human health in our community. We want to get a technical assistance grant so that we can have our consultant, Quantum Environmental monitor the sampling and analysis activities on the site and in our community. We want the site cleaned up and we want to be involved in monitoring the cleanup.

Please contact me at (713)688-0269 if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you,


James Smith
Chairman

CC: Nelda J. Perez, EPA Region 6
Camisha Scott, EPA Region 6
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

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